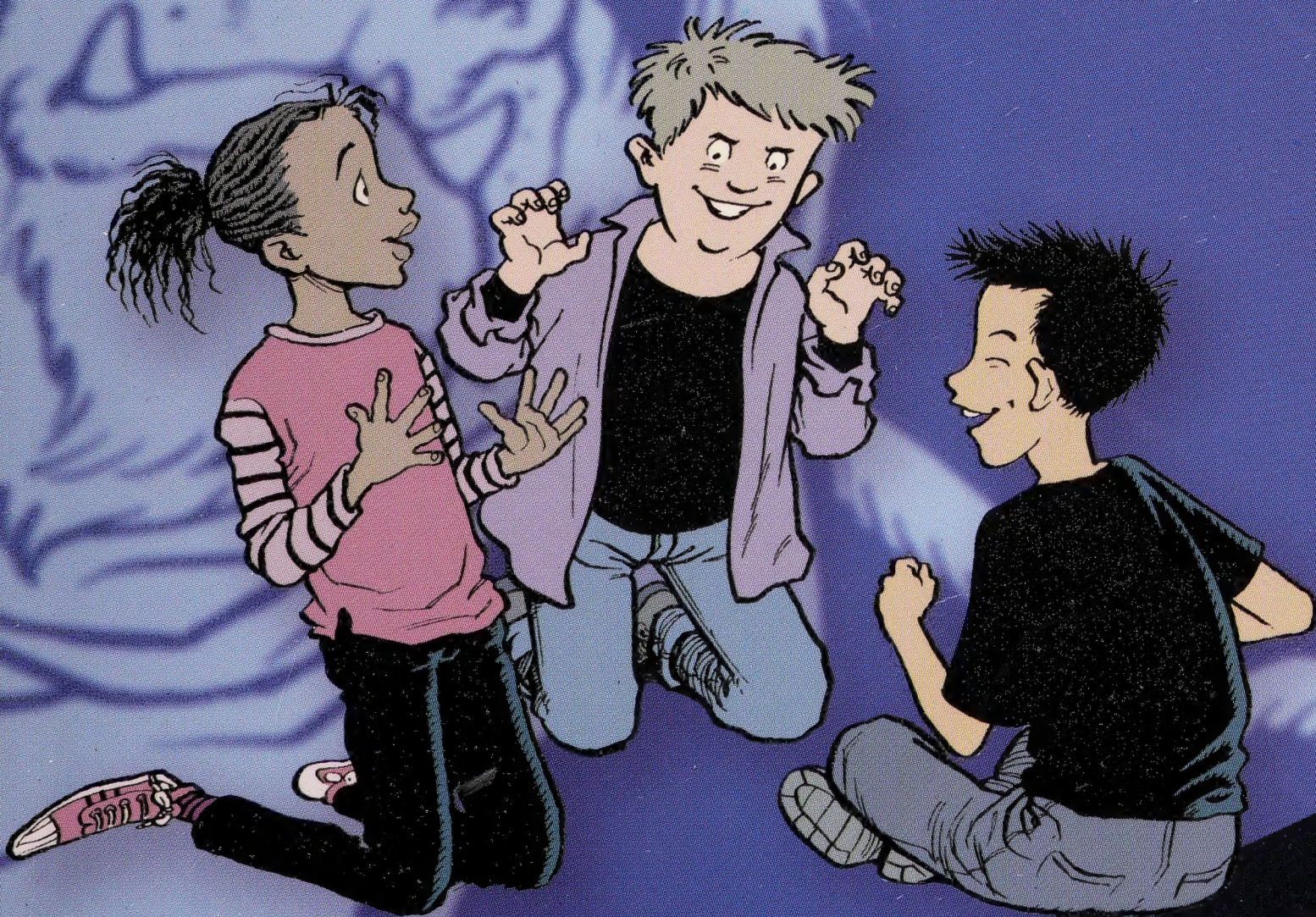


IT'S NOT ABOUT THE

ROSE!



Veronika Martenova Charles

Illustrated by David Parkins







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# ROSE!

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Veronika Martenova Charles

Illustrated by David Parkins



TUNDRA BOOKS



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Published in Canada by Tundra Books,  
75 Sherbourne Street, Toronto, Ontario M5A 2P9

Published in the United States by Tundra Books of Northern New York,  
P.O. Box 1030, Plattsburgh, New York 12901

Library of Congress Control Number: 2009938443

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### **Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication**

Charles, Veronika Martenova

It's not about the rose! / Veronika Martenova

Charles ; illustrated by David Parkins.

(Easy-to-read wonder tales)

ISBN 978-0-88776-954-2

1. Fairy tales. 2. Children's stories, Canadian (English).

I. Parkins, David II. Title. III. Series: Charles, Veronika Martenova. Easy-to-read wonder tales.

PS8555.H42242I8775 2010 jC8I3'.54 C2009-905862-6

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Book Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP) and that of the Government of Ontario through the Ontario Media Development Corporation's Ontario Book Initiative. We further acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council for our publishing program.



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Printed and bound in Canada

1 2 3 4 5 6

15 14 13 12 11 10



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# YARD SALE

## PART 1

“We are having a yard sale today,”

Ben told Lily and Jake.

“I wonder if people  
will buy anything.”

“What’s this flower under glass?”

asked Lily.

“That’s the magic rose from

*Beauty and the Beast*,” said Ben.

“The rose wasn’t magic,” Jake said.

“Yes, it was,” said Ben.





“It kept dropping petals until the prince was twenty-one years old.”

“That’s not how it goes,”  
said Jake.

“A girl asks her father for a rose...

Wait. I’ll tell you the story.”





# BELLA AND THE BEAST

*(Beauty and the Beast from Europe)*

Once there was a man  
who had three daughters.

One day he had to go  
on a journey.

“What shall I bring you back?”

he asked his daughters.

“I would like a golden dress,”

said the oldest daughter.

“I would like a silver necklace,”

said the second one.





“Bring yourself back, Father,”  
said Bella, the youngest daughter.

“That’s what I want the most.”

“But, child,” said her father,

“you must ask for something.”

“Then, I’d like a rose,” she said.





The father brought the presents,  
but he couldn't find a rose.

On his way home  
he passed by a garden.

*Maybe I'll find a rose there,*  
the father thought.



He spied a rose bush  
and plucked one pretty flower.  
All at once he heard thunder,  
and an ugly beast appeared.





“How dare you steal my roses!”  
said the beast.

“Forgive me, but my daughter  
asked for one. It’s only  
a single rose,” said the man.

“Stealing is stealing, whether it’s  
a jewel or a flower. You’ll pay  
with your life,” said the beast.

“Please, sir, let me go,”  
pleaded the father.

“There’s no one else  
to take care of my daughters.”





“Well,” said the beast,  
“I will spare your life,  
but you must bring me the girl  
who asked for the rose.”

“I promise,” said the father.





At home, the man gave  
his daughters their presents.

“Why are you so sad?”

Bella asked.

So, her father told her about  
the beast and his promise.



“It’s all my fault,” said Bella,

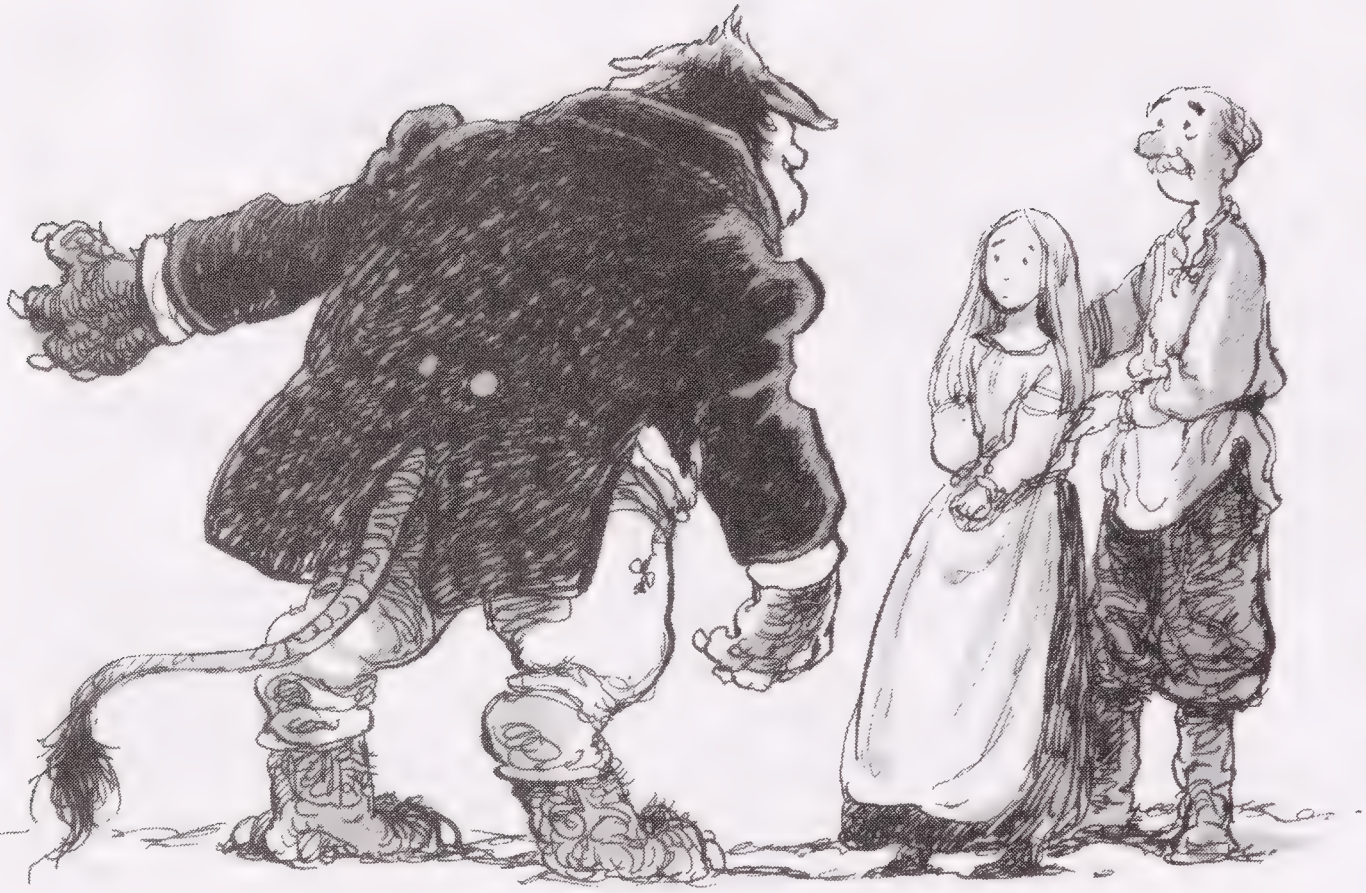
“and a promise is a promise.

I must go with you to the beast.”

The next day, Bella and her father  
went to the beast’s mansion.







“Are you willing to stay here?”

the beast asked Bella.

Bella was frightened,

but she answered, “Yes.”

“Then, this is your home now,”

said the beast.



Bella stayed at the mansion,  
but soon she became lonely.

When the beast came by,  
she began to talk with him.

Bella thought the beast was kind,  
and she grew to like his company.







One morning the beast said,

“You may visit your father.

But come back tomorrow,

or I will die without you.”

Bella went home.

She was so glad to see her father,

that the time just flew by.

She stayed too long.



When Bella returned to the mansion  
the beast was not there.

“Where are you?” she called,  
but there was no reply.

She went into the garden.

Under the rose bush lay the beast.

He was dying.





Bella fell down beside him, crying.

“Oh beast, please don’t die.

I love you.”

As soon as she said it,

the beast’s skin split open

and a young man appeared.







“Where is the beast?” she asked.

“It’s me,” the young man told her.

“You freed me from an evil spell!”

They sent for Bella’s family,

and they all lived happily together.







Lily reached out and picked up  
the rose under glass.

“This could be the rose  
that Bella asked for,” she said.

“Maybe she saved it because  
that’s how she met the beast.

My mom always saves memories.”





Ben pulled out a toy  
from the pile.

“Look at this lizard,” he said.

“It reminds me of another story  
of a girl who marries a monster.  
But it was a lizard. Listen ....”





# THE LIZARD

*(Beauty and the Beast from  
Indonesia)*

Once there was an old woman  
who lived in the jungle.

She had raised a lizard as if  
he was her own child.

When the lizard grew up, he said,  
“Mother, please go

to our neighbors’ house

where the seven sisters live.

Ask the oldest one

if she will be my wife.”





The old woman took a gift  
for the girl and off she went.  
When she arrived,  
she climbed the ladder  
and sat down.





“Why have you come?”

asked the eldest girl.

“Well,” said the old woman,

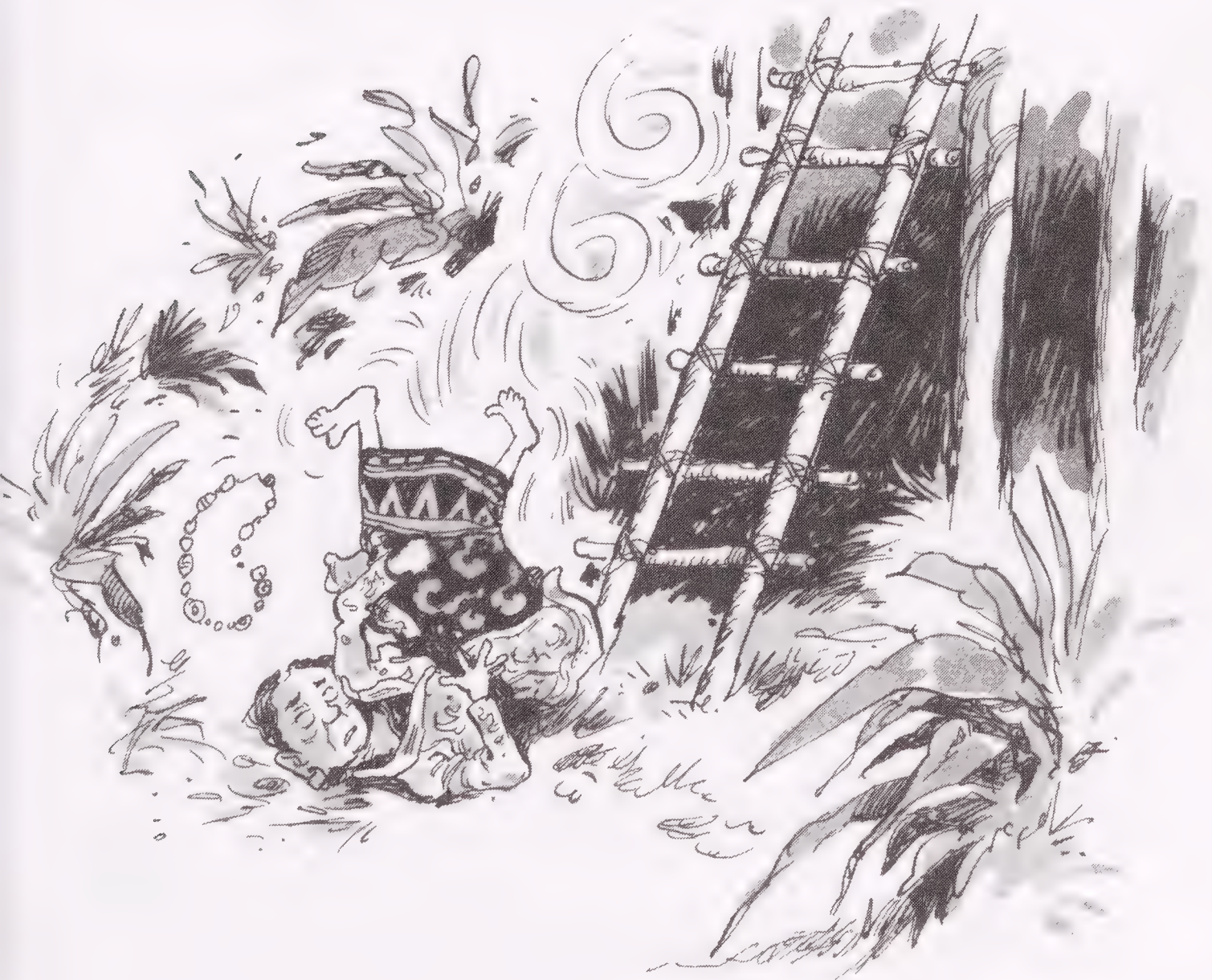
“I have come to offer you a gift  
and ask you to marry my lizard.”

“Marry a lizard?” the girl replied.

“What would I do with a lizard?”



The girl pushed the old woman  
out the door so hard  
that she fell down the ladder.  
The old woman picked herself up  
and went home.







“Did she say yes?”

asked the lizard.

“No,” said the old woman.

“The girl has no use for a lizard.”

“Don’t mind her,” said the lizard.

“Go back there again  
and ask the other sisters.”



Five more times the woman returned,  
and each time she was refused.

But the youngest sister, Lia,  
felt sorry for her, so she agreed.

The following day, the old woman  
took the lizard to Lia's house.







Lia put a mat on the floor  
and spread out her wedding gifts.  
She gave the old woman a feast.  
When the woman left, the lizard  
remained as Lia's husband.



The older sisters were disgusted.

They wiped the mud from their feet  
on the lizard's back and teased,

“Lia can't help us make a garden.

She must take care of her lizard.”

“Hush!” Lia told them,

and she washed the lizard clean.





When the sisters went out to make  
a clearing for their garden,  
the lizard said to Lia,

“Let’s make our own garden.”

Lia put the lizard in a basket  
and went into the jungle.

“Put me down,” said the lizard.







He ran around the mountain,  
lashing the grass with his tail.  
With one blow, he cut down trees.  
Then he prepared the ground  
for planting. When Lia's sisters  
saw this, they were amazed.





At home, the sisters told Lia,

“Don’t come to the planting feast.

Your husband is an ugly lizard.”

Then, they wiped mud on him again.

“Don’t be sad,” the lizard told Lia,

“We *will* go to the feast. Take me  
to the river and we’ll get ready.”



At the river the lizard said,  
“Now, throw me into the water!”  
“Why?” asked Lia. “I like you.  
I want you to stay with me.”  
But the lizard insisted,  
so she did as he asked.





The lizard plunged into the water  
and when he emerged,  
he had changed into a man.

Lia was amazed.







In the evening, all dressed up,  
Lia and her lizard-husband  
went to the festival.

“Who are they?” asked the sisters  
when they saw the couple coming.





“That’s Lia with her husband,”  
the old woman replied.

“We always knew he was special!”  
the sisters cried. They ran  
to meet him, but he would have  
nothing to do with them.



Later, Lia's husband built a house  
high on the mountain  
and lived there with Lia and  
his mother ever after.







“I know a story about a girl  
who married a bear!” said Lily.

“The bear was under a spell  
just like Bella’s prince  
in *Beauty and the Beast*.”





But in the story I know,  
the bear had to leave,  
and the girl had look for him.  
I'll tell it to you."







## THE WHITE BEAR

*(Beauty and the Beast from  
Norway)*

There was once a man and a woman  
who had many children,  
but they didn't have much food  
or clothing to give them.

The children were all pretty,  
but the youngest daughter, Thora,  
was the prettiest.





One evening, the weather was wild.

It was raining hard,

and the wind shook the cottage

as the family sat inside.

All at once, they heard three taps

on the window.





The father went out  
and saw a big, white bear.

“Good evening,” said the bear.

“The same to you,” said the man.

“May I marry your youngest girl?

If she comes with me, I will  
make you rich,” said the bear.



“Come back in a week,”  
the father told the white bear.  
Then he asked his daughter,  
“Could you live with the bear  
to help your family?”  
When the bear came back,  
Thora decided to go with him.

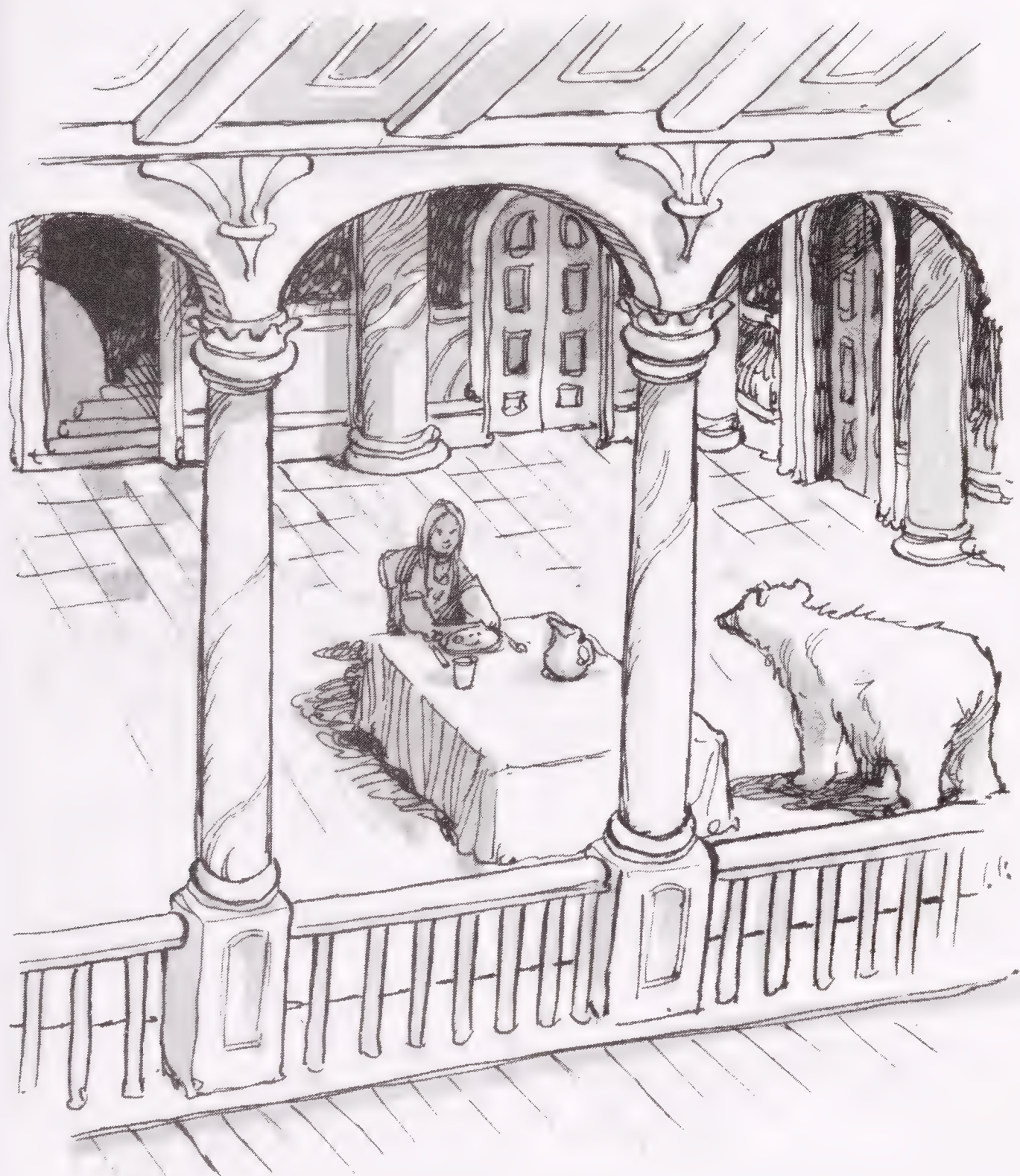


She climbed upon his back  
and off they went.

They rode a long, long way  
until they came to a castle.

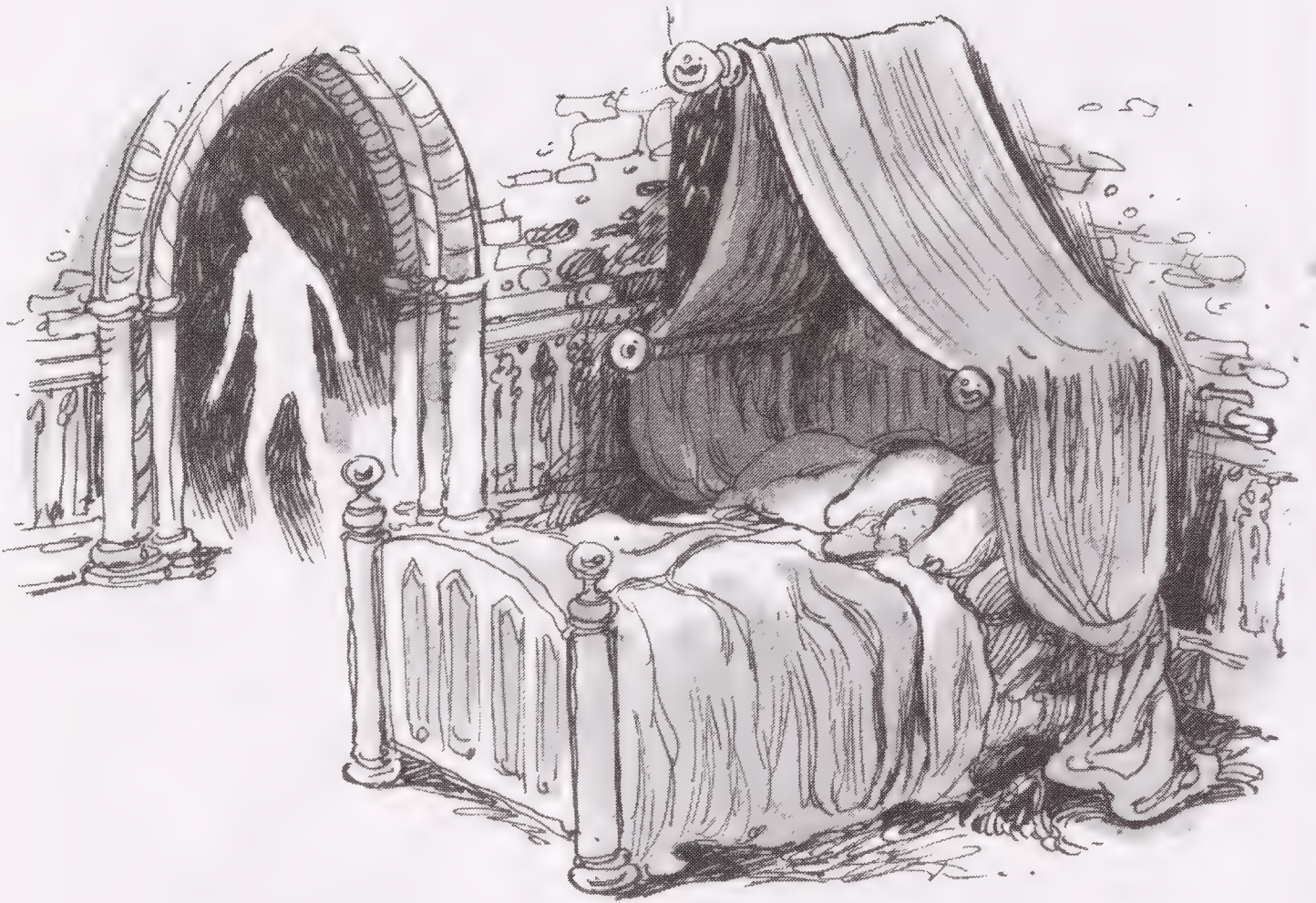






There were many rooms, and  
warm food was waiting for them.  
After Thora had eaten,  
she went to bed.





At night, the white bear came  
and lay down beside her.

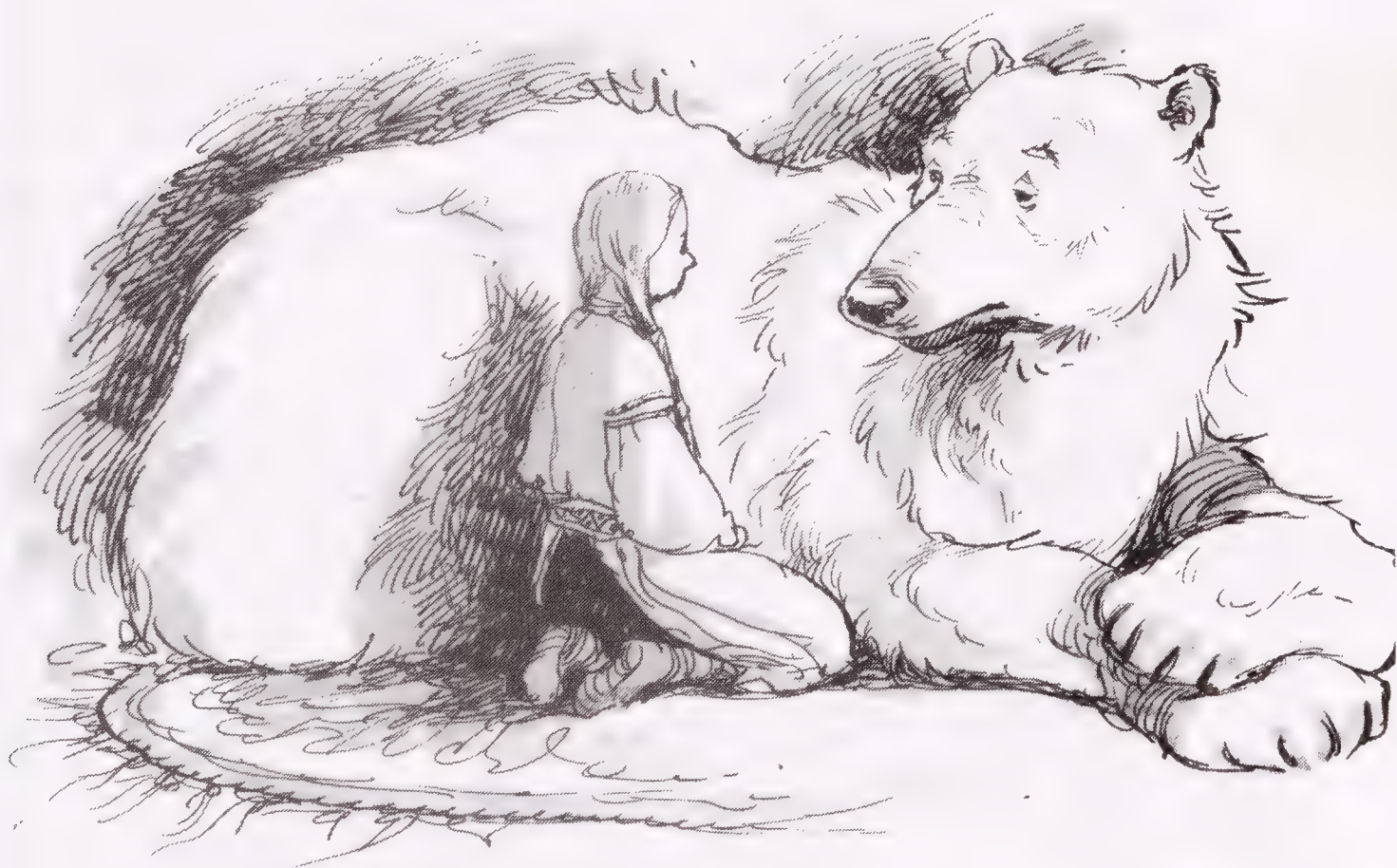
But he had changed into a man.

Thora couldn't see his face,  
because he left before sunrise.

Each night was the same.



After a few months,  
Thora began to miss her family.  
She told the bear about it.  
“I’ll take you to visit them,  
but promise not to talk about me.  
It would bring bad luck to us.”



The next day, Thora and the bear  
traveled a long, long way,  
until they came to a grand house.  
“Your family lives here, now,”  
said the bear. Then he left.







Thora was happy,  
and she told her family  
that she had everything  
she had ever wished for.  
But her mother wanted  
to talk alone with her.

“Now tell me about the bear,”  
she said. “It’s just between us.”  
So Thora told her how the bear  
changed into a man at night  
and how she wished she knew  
what he looked like.







“It may be a troll you’re with,”  
the mother worried.

She gave Thora a candle saying,  
“Light it when he’s asleep.”

Soon the bear came for Thora  
and took her back to the castle.

That night while the bear slept,  
Thora lit the candle to see him.  
He was so handsome  
that Thora bent to kiss him.  
As she did, hot wax  
dripped on him and he woke up.







“What have you done?” he cried.

“If only you had kept our secret  
for another year, the evil spell  
would have been broken.

A troll princess punished me  
because I didn’t want her.

Now I will have to marry her.”

“What can I do now?” asked Thora.

“Try to find me ....” he said.

All at once, a thick fog wrapped around them. When it cleared up, the bear and the castle were gone, and Thora lay in the woods.







She set out and walked for days,  
until she came to a cave.

Inside, sat an old woman,  
playing with a golden apple.

“Have you seen a white bear?”

asked Thora. “I need to find him.”



“Yes, he came by,”  
the woman replied.

“Perhaps I can help you.  
I’ll lend you my horse  
and give you this golden apple.  
The horse knows the way.”  
Thora thanked her.







She rode a long, long time,  
until she came to a castle  
at the end of the earth.

Thora rested near a castle window  
and began to play  
with the golden apple.



The troll princess looked out.

“How much for the apple?”

she asked.

“It’s not for sale,” Thora answered.

“Then, what do you want for it?”

asked the troll.



“I want to sleep outside  
the bear’s bedroom,” said Thora.

“Fine,” said the troll princess.

“Come back this evening.”

That night, Thora lay down  
outside the white bear’s door.





When everyone in the castle  
was asleep, she began to speak.  
The white bear heard her,  
and he opened the door.







“You came just in time,” he said.

“I almost had to marry the troll.

Now that you’ve found me,

I’m free from the spell.”

Then, they mounted the horse,  
and set off back home.



# YARD SALE

## PART 2

“How much is this rose?”

Lily asked Ben.

“I’ll find out,” said Ben.

His mother came over.

“Ben says you like the rose.

You may have it if you want,”  
she said.

“Hey, Ben,” said Jake.

“How much do you want  
for the lizard?”





“It will be a dollar,” said Ben.

“How about fifty cents?”

“I’ll bring it to you tomorrow,”

Jake said.

“Okay,” said Ben. “But remember,  
a promise is a promise!”





# ABOUT THE STORIES

*Beauty and the Beast* stories are found all over the world. People know the Disney version best, but it is not the only one.

*Bella and the Beast* represents European versions of the theme. My telling is based on Joseph Jacobs' *Beauty and the Beast*, which is a blend of several European sources.

*The Lizard* is a retelling of an Indonesian story, *The Lizard Husband*.

*White Bear* is based on a Norwegian folktale called *East of the Sun and West of the Moon*.







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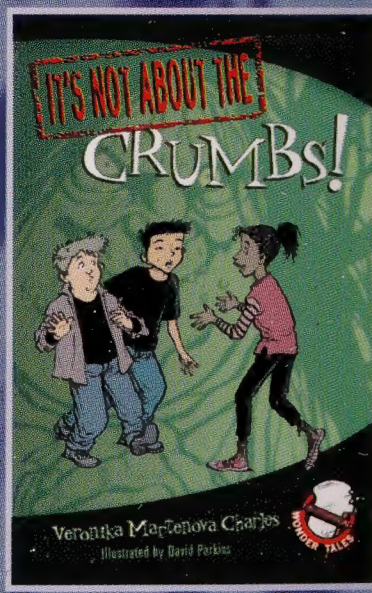
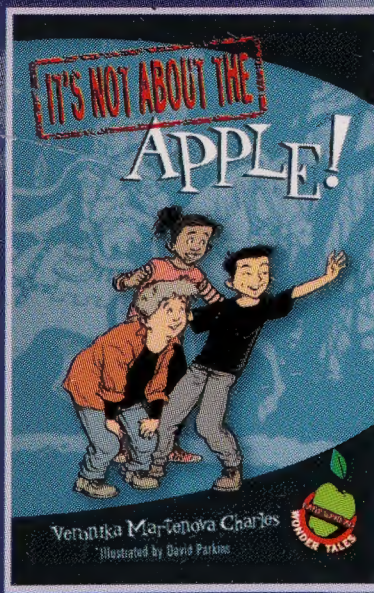
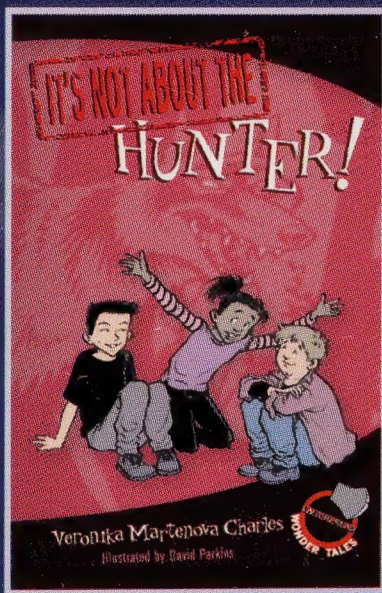
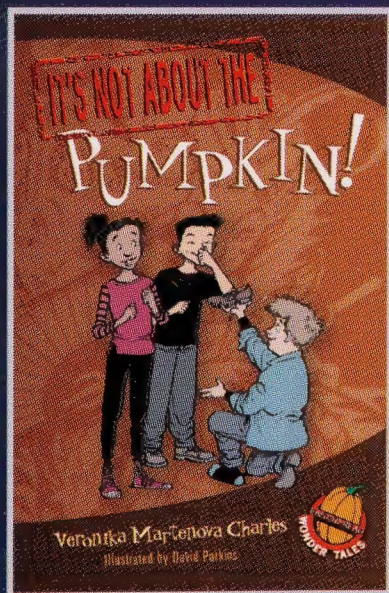
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